

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are submitted to address the issues raised in the Office Action mailed March 27, 2006. After entry of the foregoing amendments claims 35-49 are currently pending in the application, claims 1-34 and 50-52 having been cancelled, and claim 48 having been withdrawn. Claims 35-47 and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weih et al. (U.S. 5,200,459; U.S. 5,300,555; or U.S. 5,496,884).

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 35-47 and 49-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The rejection of claims 35-47 and 49-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weih et al. (U.S. 5,200,459; U.S. 5,300,555; or U.S. 5,496,884) is believed to be rendered moot by the foregoing amendments. Independent claim 35 has been amended to recite a process for preparing an adhesive comprising, among other limitations, the step of preparing an aqueous butadiene polymer latex by emulsion polymerization of at least one butadiene monomer in the presence of a stabilizer selected from styrene sulfonic acid, styrene sulfonate, poly(styrene sulfonic acid) or poly(styrene sulfonate) and an anionic surfactant in the absence of a volatile organic compound. None of the Weih et al. references teach or suggest this process. In fact, the Weih et al. references explicitly teach away from a VOC-free method of preparing an adhesive. Rather, the Weih et al. references rely on a solvent to stabilize the lattices during preparation.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and reversal of the rejection in light of these amendments.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests early consideration of the present application, entry of all amendments herein requested, and allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Todd W. Galinski at (919) 468-5979 ex6204, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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